WE'RE GAME IF YOU ARE

ROLL OVER, BEETHOVEN: COMPOSER TOMMY TALLARICO TO PERFORM HIS MUSIC FOR VIDEO GAMES, WITH HELP FROM ORCHESTRA LONDON PAGE 4

LONDON metro®

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

News worth sharing.

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TANKS FOR A LOVELY DAY

Laurin Black, 16, and Jake Bennett, 18, both of London, catch some sunshine-filled quality time Tuesday on the Holly Roller in Victoria Park. The Forest City officially welcomed spring with a mostly clear sky and a high of 24 C. That shatters the previous record high of 16.7 C set March 20, 1976, according to Environment Canada. Wednesday's high is expected to hit 25 C. ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

London the 36th best place to live?

We beg to differ. Ottawa named No. 1 for third consecutive year, New Glasgow, N.S., ranks last on magazine's Best Places to Live list

ANGELA MULLINS
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Don't tell Susan McElroy that London's not one of the best places in Canada.

Active neighbourhood groups, a strong sense of community, piles of environmental programs and tons of volunteers willing to step up for practically any cause are just the start of what make the Forest City great, says McElroy, executive director of the nonprofit Celebrate London.

That MoneySense magazine — which ranked London 36th on its nationwide list of Best Places to Live — doesn't agree with her summation is neither here nor there.

"I don't pay a lot of attention to good rankings or bad rankings," McElroy said. "If you called me and said (we) finished first I'd probably say, 'That's really nice, but that's just words on a piece of paper.'

"I know what London's like, and what's going on in our community. I think London's a strong, caring community and there are tons of things to celebrate."

MoneySense published its first Best Places list in 2009. London placed 11th that year and has been falling since — placing 12th in 2010 and 14th in 2011.

The rankings, which include 190 cities this year, are compiled by awarding points in categories ranging from culture to population growth. Some categories are weighted heavier than others, with a grand total of 105 points up for grabs.

London ranked lower this year in nearly every category when compared to 2011.

The worst categorical ranking — 160th on the list — came in unemployment. The best showing was in a category called "number of doctors per 1,000 people," which saw the city ranked 26th.

When compared to other cities with 250,000 to 500,000 people, London took fourth place, coming behind Halifax, Gatineau and Saskatoon.

London ranked 70th out of 190 cities on a list called Best Places for Jobs. The city ranked 44th on a list of places to raise kids.

Out of 190 Canadian cities

How London rated:

- Overall: 36th
- Walk/bike to work: 90th
- Affordable housing: 54th
- Household income: 76th
- Discretionary income: 66th
- New cars: 42nd
- Population growth: 87th
- Low crime: 94th
- Doctors per 1,000 people: 26th
- Weather: 128th
- Jobless rate: 160th
- Culture: 77th

We asked readers how London could improve its ranking

Via Twitter

@AbeOudshoorn : Instead of trying 2 attract big companies like every city in North America, focus on promoting our small & medium businesses.

@RyanMGauss : Need to work on creating more job opportunities — unemployment is too high — that has to be part of the reason for ranking.

@mcgreg_m : export all #fanshawe students hahaha.

@maxamilli : Understand that in an online world, everyone can see what we do (or don't do).

@marimateen : not set ctv cars on fire?

@tymawson : not riot on st patricks day?

@kelseyslondon : Invest in your community, be it your passion, your money or your time in connecting people around you.

Via Facebook

Mike Bourgeault : less dance clubs, more live music venues.

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Council OK's methadone dispensing regulations

Bylaw. New rules approved 14-1 with Coun. Joe Swan as the only opposition

ANGELA MULLINS
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Methadone pharmacies will have to steer clear of places like schools and public pools under a zoning bylaw approved Tuesday by city council.

The ordinance comes about 14 months after administrators began looking for a way to control where methadone pharmacies open and how they operate. The new rules prohibit the dispensaries from opening within 300 feet of a long list of public spaces, including the Western Fair District and Boys & Girls Club, and require that they have adequate waiting rooms along with parking.

"I think this is a landmark decision that we (should) all be proud of," Mayor Joe Fontana said before the vote.

A sticking point for councillors has been how many methadone patients a facility must serve daily before the rules apply. The bylaw passed Tuesday sets that number at more than 40.

Administrators had recommended 30 patients a day as the cutoff point. Dispensing more than 30 doses of methadone daily would take an excess of three hours, officials said, making it a primary function of the business.

City solicitor James Barber urged councillors not to make the rules too restrictive.

That, he said, could lead to a court challenge from "people with addictions."

Under the new bylaw, methadone pharmacies could open at 800 sites across the city. Facilities at additional sites could still dispense the drug on a limited basis.

"I can't see how that's restrictive to anybody and how anybody can say we don't have access," Coun. Bud Polhill said referring to the proposed 30-clients-a-day limit.

"The thing is, methadone is not just for people who are hooked on hard drugs. It's (also) for people who have pain and ... have gotten (pain) medicine … and they are trying to get off of it."

In other news

Singer brings a little country to council

Country-music singer Tommy Hunter, a London native, made a special appearance at the start of Tuesday's meeting. He performed later at the John Labatt Centre, a show billed as his last on the concert junket. METRO

Rhinoceros runs into trouble with vandals — for the 7th time

Tom Benner, 62, of London, replaces the horn on his rhino sculpture Tuesday outside Museum London (421 Ridout St. N.). Benner, who made the rhino in 1986, said vandals snapped the horn early Friday, marking the seventh time it's been stolen since the sculpture was placed on the museum's lawn in 1988. Anyone with information about the vandalism is asked to call London police or Crime Stoppers. ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

1 NEWS

Mobile news

While it might be more comfortable to sleep through a colonoscopy, the side effects of the sedation amount to more than just grogginess. Scan the code for the story.

On the web

Quake ignites memories

A 7.4-magnitude quake shook central and southern Mexico yesterday, reminding some of the bitter memories of the 1985 quake that killed hundreds. For videos, reactions and the science behind the quake, visit metronews.ca

Saturday riot. Police expected to ID suspects

Police in London say they expect more charges in the wake of last weekend's St. Patrick's Day riot on Fleming Drive.

Fanshawe College has already suspended eight students who are facing criminal charges. If they're convicted, they'll face expulsion.

At least 13 people are facing charges, and police have indicated the names of those suspects will be released Wednesday.

The number of arrests is expected to climb significantly in the coming days as police continue sifting thru hundreds of videos, Facebook posts and tweets.

Police have also set up a dedicated tip line for anyone who has any information about the riot: 519-660-5842. You can also email tips to tips@police.london.ca.

A special task force of 20 officers has been assigned to the case.

AM980/AM980.CA

Expensive riot

$19K

A city official's estimate of the cost to London taxpayers for cleaning up Fleming Drive after the riot.

Health care

Ontario creating birthing centres

Ontario is creating two birthing centres in the province.

Officials say the locations haven't been determined.

Premier Dalton McGuinty says it will give expectant mothers more choice in where they have their babies.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Charity

Western to host Big Bus Pull

Several Western University charities are joining forces for the first annual Big Bus Pull at Western University, and the public is invited.

The event will take place noon Friday on Oxford Drive in the middle of campus to raise money for the various charities involved. METRO

Ornge. Grits facing auditor general's report

Ontario's governing Liberals will be confronted with one of their biggest embarrassments Wednesday when the first report on Ornge, the province's troubled air ambulance service, is tabled in the legislature.

Auditor general Jim McCarter's value-for-money report is expected to shed some light on "financial irregularities" at the agency, which is already under scrutiny by police.

Ornge receives about $150 million a year from the province to operate a non-profit air medical-rescue and transport service.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Minister's response

"In my humble opinion, I have shown tremendous leadership on this file"

Health Minister Deb Matthews to the legislature

Lightning eye first ever NBL of Canada trophy

Basketball. With 2-0 stranglehold in best-of-five final series, Lightning look primed to bring championship to Forest City

JOHN MATISZ
london@metronews.ca

With a healthy dose of swagger, the London Lightning have vaulted themselves to a 2-0 series lead in the NBL of Canada final.

The confident bunch, led by head coach Michael Ray Richardson and forward Gabe Freeman — is 48 minutes of quality basketball away from delivering their early-season promise of a championship.

London has yet to drop consecutive contests through 40 total games — but that's exactly what it will take for the Halifax Rainmen to force a fifth and deciding contest.

However, as the saying goes, stranger things have happened.

"We're going to try to keep our momentum going," Richardson said via phone from Halifax. "We don't want this to go any longer than it has to."

The two-time coach of the month added he isn't worried about the Halifax Metro Centre's often hostile environment, which has the potential to draw 4,000-plus spectators. He isn't dwelling on London's brief lull in the third quarter of Game 2 either.

"We need to continue to guard the three-point line and we need to rebound," Richardson said when asked what London needs to do to capture the inaugural NBL of Canada crown.

A continuation of the Lightning's balanced scoring attack will be crucial, too, he added.

"It's not just a one-man show," he said. "Any one of our guys could have a big game."

Freeman's 17.5 points and 11.8 rebounds per game are both tops on the squad's deep roster after a four-pack of post-season tilts.

Michael Ray Richardson METRO FILE

Video helped the classical star

Don't knock it till you've tried it, played it, heard it, felt it, experienced it. And, most of all, don't get on your high horse.

Video Games Live creator Tommy Tallarico has this to say, classical-music elitist.

"I got news for you — if Beethoven were alive today, he'd be a video-game composer."

Tallarico, an award-winning composer of video-game music, brings his Video Games Live experience to the JLC Wednesday night, with an assist from Orchestra London.

"This unique event will appeal to video-game fans of all ages," says Alain Trudel, Orchestra London music director. "It is a great opportunity for our fine orchestra to share this truly symphonic music with a new audience of music lovers."

Tommy Tallarico VIDEOGAMESLIVE.COM

Tallarico, who has worked on more than 300 game titles, created the show in 2005.

"I wanted to prove to the world how culturally significant and artistic video games have become," said Tallarico, who was raised in St. Catharines.

The show itself is a highly co-ordinated hybrid: Synchronized videos, special effects, lighting — and symphonic music from video games.

"I describe Video Games Live as having all the power and emotion of a symphony orchestra, combined with the energy and excitement of a rock concert, mixed together with all the cutting-edge videos and interactivity, technology and fun that video games provide," said Tallarico.

"I wanted to create a show for everybody. I didn't want to create a show just for hardcore gamers." JIM REYNO/METRO

Event details

Video Games Live is Wednesday at 8 p.m. at the John Labatt Centre. Tickets start at $26.75

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Submission must be a PDF. The Board of Directors of Pride London Festival will vote on all submission to select the winner.

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THE SOURCE

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Humbled, hated, jailed

Scorn for Graham James. Talk shows and Twitter aflame as reviled hockey coach is sent to jail for hundreds of sex assaults on two players

"The most hated man in hockey" became even more reviled Tuesday.

Outrage across Canada was swift as former junior hockey coach Graham James was sentenced to two years in jail for hundreds of sexual assaults on two of his teenage players.

Few seemed to agree that the sentence fits the crime.

A spectator in the Winnipeg courtroom shouted "Yay!" then spat out a more colourful condemnation as James was led away in handcuffs.

"Goodbye, you piece of (expletive)," the man said.

Talk-show phone lines lit up with people expressing harsh views of the sentence. Others took to Twitter to voice their disgust.

"Graham James gets two years for all the lives he's ruined? Someone caught with weed gets a harsher sentence," one person tweeted. "Is that justice?"

Judge Catherine Carlson made James stand up in the prisoner's box to hear his fate.

The 59-year-old — looking gaunt, his head closely shaven — showed no emotion but simply answered "yes" when she asked him if he understood the sentence.

James pleaded guilty in December to repeatedly sexually abusing retired NHL star Theo Fleury and his cousin Todd Holt when they played for him in the Western Hockey League in the 1980s and '90s.

Carlson said in her lengthy sentence summation: "There is no sentence this court can impose that will give back to Mr. Holt and Mr. Fleury that which was taken from them by Mr. James."

In Cochrane, Alta., Holt declared: "This sentence today is nothing short of a national travesty because we know that childhood abuse has reached epidemic proportions in our country."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Graham James, wearing a red ski mask that concealed most of his face, tries to hide from cameras as he arrives at the courthouse in Winnipeg on Tuesday. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Panic in the streets

Giant quake wrecks homes and sparks wave of fear across Mexico

Buildings swayed. Some 800 homes were damaged. A pedestrian bridge collapsed on an empty transit bus.

A strong 7.4-magnitude earthquake hit southern Mexico on Tuesday, spreading fear and panic.

It was one of the strongest quakes to shake Mexico since the deadly 1985 temblor that killed thousands in Mexico City.

Tuesday's quake hit hardest in southern Oaxaca and Guerrero states, but the fear spread to the capital.

In Mexico City, frightened residents poured into the streets.

Telephone service was down and some neighbourhoods were without power, said Mexico City Mayor Marcelo Ebrard.

About 40 passengers were stranded for a short time on the Mexico City airport air train, but later released.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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New Israeli law bans underweight models in ads

A man walks past an ad featuring models in Tel Aviv.
ODED BALILTY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Told she was too fat to be a model, Danielle Segal shed a quarter of her original 116-pound weight and was hospitalized twice for malnutrition. The girl weighed 88 pounds by then, or about as much as a robust preteen, and her health suffered.

Now that a new Israeli law prohibits the employment of underweight models, the 19-year-old must gain some of it back if she wants to work again.

The legislation aims to put a stop to the extremes, and by extension ease the pressure on youngsters to emulate the skin-and-bones models, often resulting in dangerous eating disorders.

The new law poses a groundbreaking challenge to a fashion industry widely castigated for promoting anorexia and bulimia. Its sponsors say it could become an example for other countries grappling with the spread of the life-threatening disorders.

The law requires models to produce a medical report no more than three months old at every shoot for the Israeli market, stating that they are not malnourished, according to World Health Organization standards.

In Israel, about two per cent of girls between 14 and 18 have severe eating disorders, a rate similar to other developed countries, experts said.

The law's supporters hope it will encourage the use of healthy models in local advertising. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Moment

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TESTIMONIAL - *Thank you so much!* "My fiancée and I had always thought that we were relatively healthy at 47 years of age and had fairly decent eating habits in that we were conscious of what we put into our bodies - fresh fruit and veggies, as little processed meats, white flour, sugar, salt, etc. but over the last 6 months or so we were beginning to feel sluggish and that our age was finally catching up to us - very rapidly. We searched the internet and narrowed our search to CleanseSMART's 30 day cleanse. We are very happy to report that after only five days both of us felt an amazing change in our bodies - lighter, healthier and more energized! Thank you so very much for your expertise in formulating this cleanse." - 2008-01-16

First Cleanse
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TESTIMONIAL - *Excellent!* "I tried this because I was feeling sluggish with achy muscles, I now have more energy then I have had in a long time. Excellent product! I will likely try the 30 day CleanseSMART cleanse when I have the time but for a quick feel good solution this is the answer." - 2009-09-15

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SCARY LIT RAISES SPECTRE OF GORE-STOKED GENERATION

JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca/justsaying

Now that my own children are grown and there's nothing I can do about them, it's time to start worrying about the next generation.

After all, they're the ones who are going to find me in my single room buried under mouldy Starbucks venti lattes and ship me off to the state geezer preserve.

And if what they're up to right now is any indication, I have no reason to expect compassion.

I started thinking about the next generation after hearing that Judy Blume's novels are about to be turned into ebooks. And publishers are worried that today's kids, raised on a steady diet of vampires, human sacrifice and Grand Theft Auto, will find her books bland and boring.

This was once the most banned author in North America, whose most banned book (Forever) opened with the following line: "Sybil Davison has a genius I.Q. and has been laid by at least six different guys."

'Blood and sacrifice'

"These days, you have to add blood and sacrifice for kids to stop sexting and virtually stoning each other on Am I Ugly and read instead."

That got you banned in 1975, but these days it's so tame that even the censors can't work up enough jam to read it, even if they can download it instantly.

These days, you have to add blood and sacrifice for kids to stop sexting and virtually stoning each other on Am I Ugly and read instead. The average teenager sends 60 text messages a day and spends more than seven hours a day "using" media, 80 per cent of it social media.

When Judy Blume was freaking out parents and librarians, there was no Internet. You had to look into a mirror to find out if you were ugly. Now you post a photo on the Internet and let the world have its way with you.

So what are we raising? Pretty little bloodthirsty, depraved, techno-robotic, Borg-minded, crypto-fascist, superstitious sociopaths? Maybe.

At least they can help you unlock your cellphone.

When my kids were young, the biggest threat to their mental health was V.C. Andrews, who dealt in incest and various forms of abuse. Plus she was a terrible writer. By comparison, Judy Blume was Shakespeare. Of course, nobody reads him anymore either, not as long as we have Suzanne Collins (The Hunger Games) or Stephanie Meyer (Twilight).

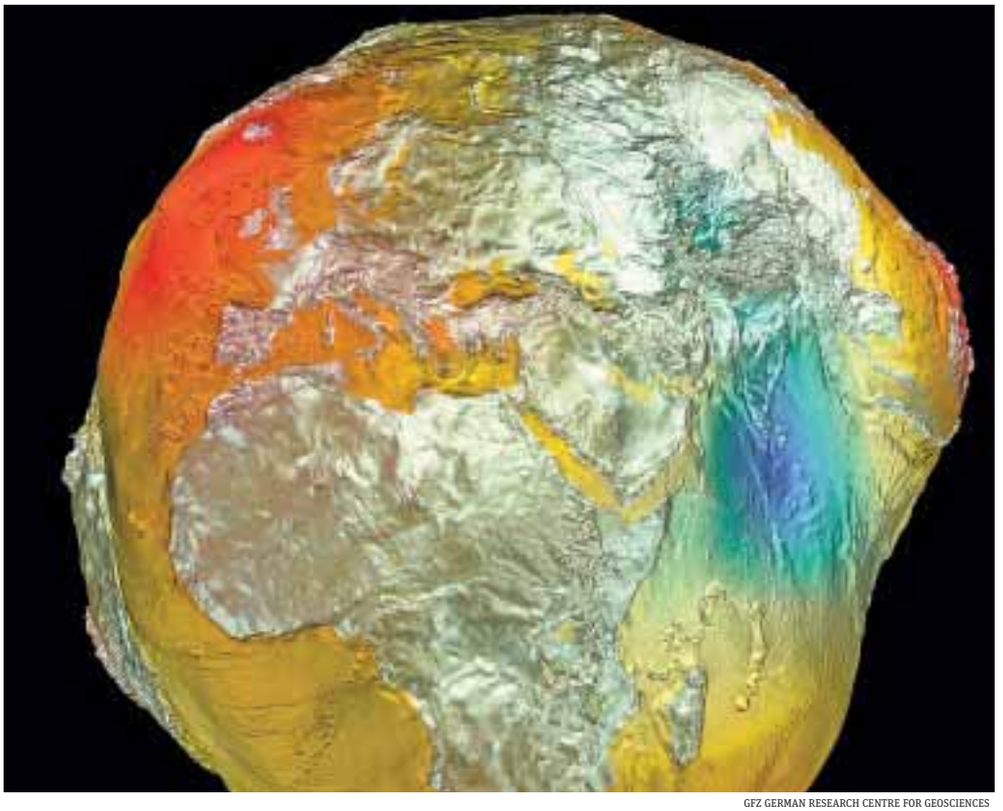
Today, "writing" is a kind of delivery mechanism, like a syringe or a hand-held rocket launcher. Ideas are no longer than 140 characters and something gets killed at the end.

For those who still remember, it's like Brave New World meets Lord of the Flies.

With zombies.

Jennifer Lawrence portrays Katniss Everdeen in a scene from The Hunger Games based on Suzanne Collins' novel. MURRAY CLOSE/LIONSGATE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Planet 'potato' down to earth



GFZ GERMAN RESEARCH CENTRE FOR GEOSCIENCES

3-D mapping

Map shows how Earth changes

For most of us, our planet is spherical in shape, but for some German geoscientists tracking planetary changes, it looks like a potato. Based on data from NASA satellites, the "Potsdam Gravity Potato" is a 3-D mapping that reveals how melting ice has changed Earth's gravity. MWN

Gravity field

"When the mass of Greenland's ice sheet changes, so does the gravity there. Gravity field measurements give us information on mass changes, including climate-related ones."

Frank Flechtner, expert from GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences

Geoscience

'Potato' based on Newton's law

"This is not a gimmick," the Potsdam-based scientists say. The "Gravity Potato," first developed in 1995, is based on one of Newton's laws that states an object's gravity depends on its mass. Earth's uneven distribution of mass means varying gravitational pull on the surface. MWN

This year's 'potato'

The bulge rises in Japan

- The bulge in Far East Asia shows the dramatic changes in solid earth as a result of Japan's earthquakes in 2011.

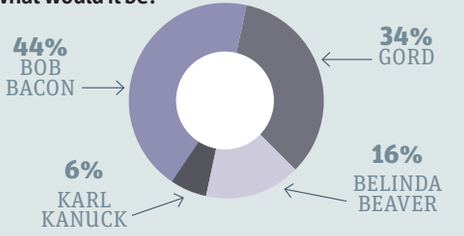
Loss of ice mass = sea rise

- Greenland's ice shield had 240 gigatons of mass loss between 2002 and 2011, corresponding to a sea level rise of 0.7 mm per year.

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

If you were to get a cellphone under a fake name, what would it be?



Twitter

@TBreezy34
All about the first day of spring JK LOLS we just went right to summer in #ldnont . #yeahbuddy

@Traceynola
Hey tweet buddies!!! I'm home :) Miss me much????? #ldnon

@LdnOnt_Blair
Bieber's new album is out soon. In (seemingly) related news, #LdnOnt is preparing for more street riots.

@Metal_Tree
Metal Tree urges the Aluminum Rhino vandals of #LdnOnt to step forward. No, the horn cannot be returned to the Beer Store for a deposit.

@kristen_conway
is there a video editing tool that simply removes room tone and doesn't blend or distort the main audio?! wish i was back at #Fanshawe

@heesoup
Yes, I repeat, UC Hill is basically Grand Bend 2.0 #westernu

metro

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‘Not your everyday villain’

Alexander Ludwig is photographed by fans as he arrives on the red carpet for the premiere of The Hunger Games on Monday. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Golden boy. New on the scene, Alexander Ludwig says fans don’t mind he plays a trained killer in The Hunger Games

RICHARD CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

At six-feet, two-inches with all-American good looks (even though he was born in Vancouver), Alexander Ludwig doesn’t look like a super villain. But to fans of The Hunger Games he is the baddest baddie of them all, Cato, the brute from District 2.

“He was born and raised a killer and that’s all he knew how to do,” says the 20-year-old actor.

“But he’s not your everyday villain. There’s a lot more substance and depth to this guy. You can tell he’s had a tortured life.”

Trained as a killer, Cato has spent his whole life preparing for his turn in The Hunger Games, a kind of murderous reality show.

“I’m playing the most feared guy in the arena so I didn’t know how I was going to be received by everyone else in the cast,” he says of his co-stars Jennifer Lawrence and Josh Hutcherson. “I was cautious about it, but everyone was amazing.”

One thing is for sure; he made an impression on one stunt man.

“I hit a stunt guy across the face with the butt end of a rubber bat when I was filming,” he says, “but once you do that you have keep going because they’re going to kick your ass if you don’t. ‘What are you doing? That was the perfect sell because you actually hit me.’ I felt so bad.”

He says that despite the movie’s dark subject matter and the odd bruised stunt man, the mood on set was light.

“It is important to have contrast when the material is so dark. There’s all this tense energy and right after they yell, ‘Cut’ you can breathe.”

He’s also breathing a little easier now the movie is done and fans have embraced him.

“I have been so, so happy about the way I have been received because it could go either way,” he says.

“Everyone’s been very excited to see me and meet me. No one has said, ‘Screw you, Cato!’ I hope it stays like this. Everyone likes being liked and I chose this role knowing that it could go the other way.”

“I’m just riding this crazy experience. You really can’t think about it because you don’t know what to expect. Every day is a new experience.

I walked out of my hotel room this morning and there were fans outside. I can’t believe this is happening to me. It’s wild.”

If looks could kill

“Everyone’s been very excited to see me and meet me. No one has said, ‘Screw you, Cato!’ I hope it stays like this. Everyone likes being liked and I chose this role knowing that it could go the other way.”

Actor Alexander Ludwig,
on playing the evil Cato in The Hunger Games.

When it’s ‘every man for himself’

Hungry for blood. Why do we love movies about people forced to hunt and kill each other?

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

If you’ve read The Hunger Games novels, you’re likely excited about the big screen adaptation hitting theatres this Friday. The story of a dystopian world where children killing children is a national pastime — think American Idol, only with knives — was a mega-hit in book stores and promises to pack theatres.

But if the movie lineups are enough to keep you away from the theatre on Saturday night, here are some similar themed movies to get you in the mood.

Battle Royale is the ultra-violent Japanese cousin to The Hunger Games. The movie is a futuristic nightmare about a group of kids who are shipped off to a remote island and forced to wage war against one another until only one remains.

The film’s bloody conflict enraged the Japanese censors who tried to ban the movie, but their plan backfired. Slapping a tough R15 rating on the film only increased people’s desire to see it. “Because it was forbidden,” says director Kinji Fukasaku, “they wanted to watch it even more.”

Also breathing the same air is Series 7: The Contenders, a parody of reality television where contestants hunt down and murder one another. This gory satire won a passing grade from Roger Ebert who said, “It’s not the idea that people will kill each other for entertainment that makes Series 7 jolting. What the movie correctly perceives is that somewhere along the line we’ve lost all sense of shame in our society.”

The idea of televising human blood sports isn’t new to the reality TV era, however. Years before Survivor made the phrase, “You’ve been voted off the island” a household term, Steven King and Arnold Schwarzenegger unleashed The Running Man on audiences.

Arnold plays a wrongly convicted man fighting for his survival on a TV game show, overseen by Family Feud host Richard Dawson.

“I’ll be back!” Arnold says, mimicking his Terminator catchphrase. “Only in a rerun,” says Dawson, who hopes Arnold bites it and gives the show a spike in ratings.

Finally, director Norman Jewison imagined a theme similar to The Hunger Games in his 1975 film Rollerball. Set in 2018, it’s about a deadly sport that combines roller derby, hockey, football and a generous helping of violence. The movie’s style seems a bit dated but the ideas aren’t. Jewisons’ prophetic take on violence, the influence of corporations and the state of entertainment are bang on.

Elizabeth Banks, left, and Jennifer Lawrence star in The Hunger Games. HANDOUT

2 SCENE

Virgin space travellers

Kutcher signs up

Richard Branson says his venture to launch paying tourists into space has netted its 500th customer, and it’s none other than Ashton Kutcher. Branson made the announcement on his blog Monday. He called the actor to congratulate him and said Kutcher is thrilled at the prospect of being among the first to cross “the final frontier” aboard Virgin Galactic. Virgin Galactic is in the final stages of its test flight program. The company plans to launch its spacecraft from Spaceport America, a special terminal and runway built in southern New Mexico’s desert.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

Kevin Costner’s lawyers tell SD high court actor did not breach contract with sculpture artist

Telenova nights: reigning king of laughter goes Latin

Ferrell fever. The SNL stars speaks to Metro about becoming a man, Burgundy and, of course, his bum

MEREDITH ENGEL
Metro World News in Hollywood

Will Ferrell, left, as Armando Alvarez in Casa de Mi Padre HANDOUT

For the duration of his new movie, Casa de Mi Padre, Will Ferrell speaks only in Spanish — the entire movie is subtitled.

Fittingly clad in a powder blue country Western shirt ("It's got a little bit of a Dallas Cowboy cheerleader feel to it," he says), he spoke with us about his career, his kids and his famous rear end.

You have a nude scene in this film, and this is the second time that you're showing moviegoers your butt. What is it about your tush that you think audiences can't get enough of?
Honestly, I just was serving the script, No. 1. But No. 2, I think it's a funny-looking butt. It's a comedy butt. It was just a great opportunity to make fun of the stereotypical passion scene.

Also, on a deeper level, we're so body-image conscious — why not show that we all have normal-looking bodies? It's kind of a way to just go, it's not that big a deal.

Your character, Armando, steps out of the shadows and finds his machismo in this film. Can you pinpoint a time in your life when you really came into your own?
I think if you're doing comedy, I don't know if you ever really reach that feeling of like, "I've got it down." I think there's always a place of fear within you where you're like, "God, I hope this works." Getting on Saturday Night Live maybe was a little moment of that, but then you have to prove yourself on Saturday Night Live. Then you leave the show and you test your waters in the movie world, and this business is getting harder and harder.

This movie is being described as Anchorman-meets-telenovela. How would Ron Burgundy fare in this world?
Probably horribly, because there's no way Burgundy knows any other languages. He'd pretend that he knows Spanish and just immediately get in some awkward, horrible, compromising position where he gets shot.

Yeah, I don't think he'd do well.

Titanic twin? Downton Abbey is not headed toward an iceberg: Roache

Linus Roache and Geraldine Somerville HANDOUT

Comparisons to other historical productions are inevitable for the ambitious four-part TV series Titanic, notes star Linus Roache. And between the epic James Cameron blockbuster, due for re-release next month in 3D, and the Edwardian TV smash Downton Abbey, which draws various plots from the liner's sinking, there are plenty of analogies to be made — and dispelled. Roache is particularly dismissive of media references to his disaster tale as Downton at sea — a reference to the fact Titanic was written by Downton Abbey creator Julian Fellowes and similarly charts a multitude of storylines that cross various social strata.

"Well, everybody is going to do that because it's Julian Fellowes and you know, obviously he writes extremely well for big ensemble casts and he writes very well for this sort of upstairs-downstairs class divide," Roache says in a recent phone interview from his home in Lenox, Mass. "But this I would say is very different from Downton Abbey because Downton Abbey is not headed toward an iceberg where everybody's lives are at risk. At the same time as being a period drama, it's also a kind of an epic disaster movie."

It's tempting, too, to compare the sprawling Canadian-Hungarian-British co-production to Cameron's box office juggernaut Titanic but Roache says his TV version differs by navigating "the story of the whole ship and not just one main love story."

Roache also points to a unique narrative structure in which each episode revisits the tragic sinking several times, from different points of view.

"Each night you revisit the stories and you pick up on different characters and you also sort of see some of the same scenes from different perspectives." explains Roache, best known for TV's Law & Order: Special Victims Unit and Law & Order. So by the end of the four nights you've really gone on quite a journey of all of these characters."

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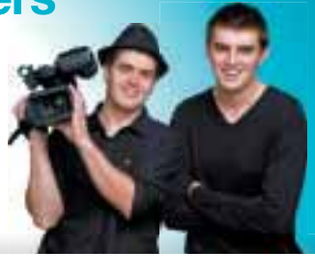

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Jon Hamm

Hamm at odds with public's perception of his good looks

Jon Hamm finds himself at odds with the rest of the world in thinking that he's handsome.

"I don't necessarily think of myself like the handsome guy. That's reserved for Brad Pitt and Ryan Reynolds and those guys," the Mad Men star tells Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

"It's certainly nice when people say nice things about you, don't get me wrong. I guess I never really thought of myself that way."

Goldie Hawn

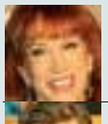
Goldie Hawn denies saying Hudson married rock star boyfriend

Goldie Hawn set off a rash of speculation that daughter Kate Hudson had already secretly wed fiancé Matt Bellamy when she told ES magazine,

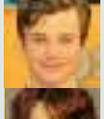
"When my daughter Kate married an English rock star it didn't worry me."

But Hawn doesn't stand by the quote. When a Twitter follower asked her, "So are Kate and Matt really married, or are the press twisting your words?" Hawn responded, "Darling, once again

Twitter



@kathygriffin
Larry the dog got out & was missing ALL DAY! Got a call & WHO rescued him? @KalPenn! #Random #grateful



@chriscolfer
My goldfish have love handles. I may be over feeding them...

@diablocody
Currently watching a dad TIE his daughter to a piece of playground equipment so she can't fall off. He's using police tape, which makes it extra weird.

@AlbertBrooks
If it walks like a duck, looks like a duck, quacks like a duck, it still could be a chicken doing impressions.

The Word

Is Kim Zolciak jacking Jessica Simpson's swagger?

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Kim Zolciak must be getting tired of Jessica Simpson stealing the blond-weave-wearing-pregnant-lady spotlight, as it was announced yesterday that she and husband Kroy Biermann, 26, are wasting no time expanding their family. After giving birth to their son, Kroy Jagger (KJ) Jr., last May, Life & Style is exclusively reporting that the couple is expecting their second baby.

"Kroy and I are so excited," Kim, 33, tells the magazine. "To decide we wanted to get pregnant again and have it happen so quickly was such a blessing."

I'd go all conspiracy theorist on you and say Kim and Kroy (ed note: What the hell kind of name is "Kroy"? Is that a mash-up of "Kyle" and "Troy"?) are just now revealing this news to bring attention to the TV special about their lavish November wedding, Don't Be Tardy for the Wedding, which premieres on April 26 at 9 p.m. on Bravo.

But, come on: anyone who films their wedding for reality TV and then calls it Don't Be Tardy for the Wedding will of course try to capitalize off of a pregnancy.

There's no conspiracy about it.

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Simon Cowell

Cowell considering killing off X Factor if ratings continue to dip

Despite all the rumors about negotiating with Britney Spears to come on board as a judge, Simon Cowell may have altogether different plans for the U.S. edition of the X Factor — and they involve cancelling the show altogether.

"I'd rather fall off the cliff on numbers than deteriorate slowly," Cowell said at a press conference for the launch of another season of Britain's Got Talent.

"We have something in development, which could replace The X Factor."

Quote

"I'd rather fall off the cliff on numbers than deteriorate slowly."
Simon Cowell
speaking about X-Factor's ratings.

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3 LIFE

Travel in brief

No free music at festival

After three years of financial losses, the showcase summer festival Taste of Chicago will start charging music fans if they want concert seats. Taste of Chicago performances at the 3,000-seat Petrillo Music Shell in Grant Park had been free, but the city wants to charge $25 a ticket this year, Mayor Rahm Emanuel said Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the Web

Edgar Degas' Impressionism stripped bare in Paris: forget dancers, this time its nudes

Exhibit helps MythBusters take their show on the road

Museum. Discovery Channel program creates a science-based exhibit at a museum in Chicago, with plans to tour the showcase

Who gets wetter, someone walking in the rain or running? Is it really possible to hang from a cliff by your fingers until help arrives like they do in the movies? And is Superman the only one who is faster than a speeding bullet?

Those are questions the Discovery Channel's MythBusters has asked for years, and starting last week, anybody who's wondered how long it takes to put on a superhero outfit in a phone booth — don't forget the cape — can answer them for themselves at Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry.

MythBusters: The Explosive Exhibition, opened March 15, marking the first time the show has taken such questions on the road. The Chicago exhibition, which runs through Sept. 3, is the first of a planned national tour that will include stops at several other U.S. cities.

"This has both the science and also a sense of humour, what we've been doing for a decade," Adam Savage, one of the show's hosts, said this week before the exhibition opened.

Just like on the show, the exhibit is a kind of scientific bait and switch. It starts with something visitors have seen in the movies or on TV or that they can recall from their own experiences.

"That's the hook," said Jamie Hyneman, also a MythBusters co-host. "That gets them involved and before they know what happens they've actually learned something or been lured into thinking carefully about what's going on."

The exhibit consists of about a dozen stations mixed in with props familiar to viewers, like the actual casket Hyneman lay in for a segment on being buried alive. In one station shaped like a ship cargo container, a visitor walks and another runs while water drips from hoses above. Once they're wet, they go around the corner and, because the water contains traces of fluorescent dye, they can see just how many drops hit them as they stand in front of a black light.

After determining which one of them is wetter, the participants press either the run or walk button. The results will be stored for now and revealed when the show leaves in September.

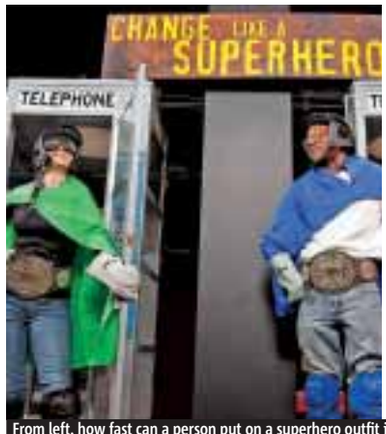
There is another exhibit for anyone who's wondered if a blind Al Pacino really could have navigated a car through the streets of New York in Scent of a Woman based on the directions given by a terrified Chris O'Donnell from the passenger seat. With the help of video-arcade style equipment, visitors can see if they do as well as Pacino or better than Hyneman and Savage did on the show.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

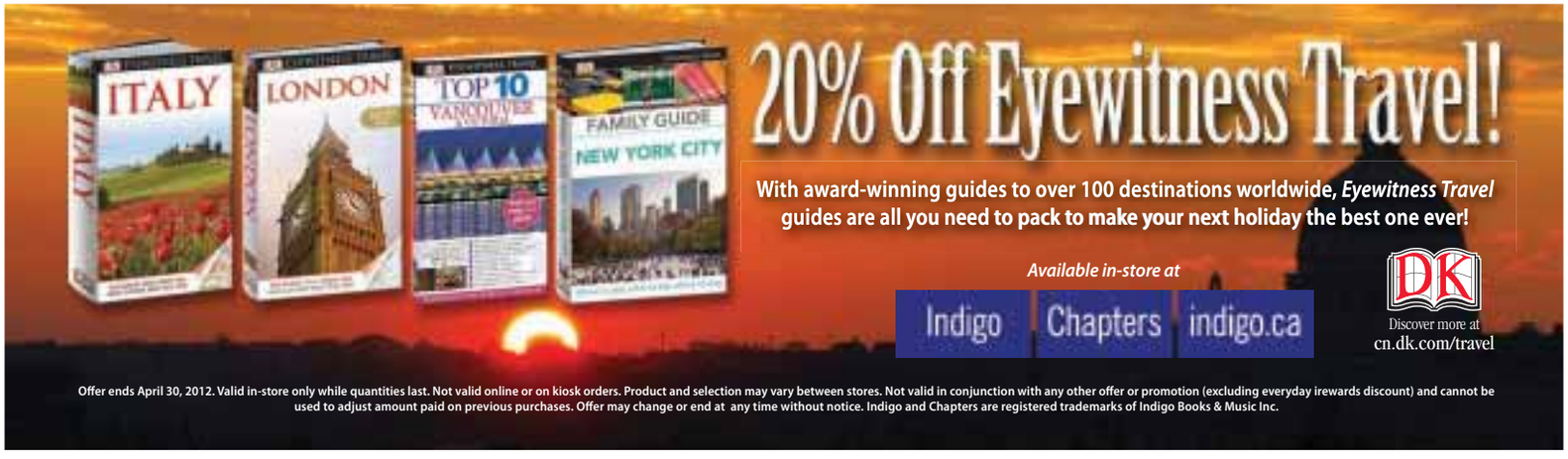
If you go...

- **Mythbusters.** Through Sept. 3 at Museum of Science and Industry, 57th Street and Lake Shore Drive, Chicago; msichicago.org or 773-684-1414. Open daily 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Timed ticketing; adults, $25, children 3-11, $18 (general admission plus $10).

Jamie Hyneman, left, and Adam Savage, stars of Mythbusters, stand outside the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago. J.B. SPECTOR/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



From left, how fast can a person put on a superhero outfit in a phone booth? The Mythbusters open the exhibit in Chicago last week. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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The bite-sized San Francisco

Food trucks are a big deal in San Francisco, so we got Kate McEachern, founder of local cupcake truck Cupkates, to talk us through her city's hot spots

METRO WORLD NEWS

First time?

For those that usually ignore the clichéd recommendations in travel guides, play the tourist for once. San Francisco has some amazing attractions and you don't want to miss them. Your first stop should be Fort Point. Its vantage point overlooking Golden Gate Bridge offers amazing views.

Been there before?

Once you've seen all of the staple tourist spots, I'd recommend a trip to Golden Gate Park (goldengate-park.com). Go for tea at the Japanese Tea House and Garden or simply walk around the gardens. The California Academy of Sciences (calacademy.org), one of the world's largest natural history museums, is a fun daytime outing whether you're with family or friends. I always head straight to the living roof. Designed by architect Renzo Piano, the roof consists of undulating green hillocks and 1.7 million native plants, mimicking the city's topography.

Go out

If you want a chilled but fun Friday night out then head over to the De Young Museum (deyoung.famsf.org). It stays open late, keeping people entertained with the bar and live music. Bubble Lounge champagne bar (bubblelounge.com) is perfect for a girls' night out. Although, by no means does this mean boys aren't allowed to join the party.

Stay in

For those on a budget, Hotel des Arts, located in the French Quarter, is an eclectic boutique close to Union Square, perfect if you had a day of shopping planned (sfhotel-desarts.com). If you have a bit more to spend, in the mid-range price is Hotel Del Sol. This is a joyful-kid friendly place to stay.

Eat

Some of the city's best food comes from a truck. Off the Grid (offthegridsf.com) is a bustling roving market with gourmet food trucks selling anything from my cupcakes to 'eat curbside's' deep fried Mac n Cheese.

On Friday nights, the Fort Mason market has a bar and music, making it a really great (and super cheap!) way to spend the evening. Nick's Crispy Tacos (at 1500 Broadway) makes the most amazing fried fish pescado tacos (ask for them made "Nick's Way") and carnitas (braised pork) in town.

If you're craving pizza, there's no other place than Una Pizza Napoletana (unapizza.com/sf). The place is small and the owner Anthony Mangieri makes pizza to order using an oven placed in the middle of the dining room.

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Start spring off on a sweet note with treats for the big & little kids

Chocolate Mango Mousse. This easy, do-ahead dessert is a great way to incorporate chocolate without over indulging

Because this is a chilled dessert, you can make it ahead of time and not worry about things coming out of the oven at the right time when you're busy trying to impress those picky dinner guests.

To make it into a restaurant-worthy dish, spoon the Chocolate Mango Mousse into parfait glasses and top with fresh berries.

Ingredients

4 portions
Start to finish: 30 minutes, plus chilling

- 250 ml (1 cup) frozen mango chunks, thawed
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) sugar
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) homogenized milk
- 1 whole egg, plus 1 yolk
- 22 ml (1 1/2 tbsp) cornstarch
- 150 ml (2/3 cup) milk chocolate bits
- 250 ml (1 cup) heavy cream

1 Fill a medium bowl with ice.

2 In a blender, combine the thawed mango chunks, sugar, milk, whole egg and yolk, and cornstarch. Purée until completely it is smooth.

3 Pour the mixture into a small saucepan over medium heat. Whisking constantly, heat the mixture until it thickens and comes to a boil. Remove from heat and add the milk chocolate bits. Stir until the chocolate is melted and thoroughly incorporated.

4 Place the saucepan in a bowl of ice; ensure that none of the ice gets into the saucepan. Whisk the mixture until it is completely cooled and smooth.

5 In a large bowl, place the heavy cream. Use an electric mixer to beat it until medium peaks form, 3 to 5 minutes.

Chocolate Mango Mousse

The chocolate flavours aren't overpowering. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

6 Add half of the beaten cream to the milk chocolate-mango mixture and fold together to incorporate. Add remaining cream and fold again to incorporate.

7 Transfer the Chocolate Mango Mousse to 4 individual serving dishes and refrigerate until you are ready to serve it.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Drink of the Week

Chocolate Seduction

Chocolate and vodka combine to make a romantic cocktail that is pure magic.

Seduce your lover or your favourite foodie with this special drink.

1 Combine vodka, coffee, nut and chocolate liqueurs in a shaker with ice. Shake and strain into two cocktail glasses. Top with chocolate. Makes 2 servings.

- 2 oz vodka
- 1 oz coffee liqueur
- 1 oz nut liqueur (such as Frangelico or Amaretto)
- 1 oz chocolate liqueur
- Grated bittersweet chocolate

RECIPE AND PHOTO: ICEBERG VODKA

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Caramelized apples star in frozen dessert

Serves eight. THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

A creamy-sweet combination of caramelized apples and vanilla frozen yogurt topped with crunchy granola offers the perfect combination of ingredients.

Top this frozen treat with fresh whipped cream and a sprinkle of cinnamon for a truly decadent dessert.

1 In a large bowl, toss apples with lemon juice; set aside.

2 In a large heavy skillet over medium-high heat, melt butter. Add sugar and stir until it has completely dissolved and is dark amber in colour. Add apples with their juices and reduce heat to low.

3 Cook, stirring often, about 10 minutes or until apples are softened. Stir in cream and vanilla; transfer to a large bowl. Let cool, cover and refrigerate for at least 1 hour or until chilled and thickened. (Keep it refrigerated for up to 2 days.)

4 To assemble: For each serving, place 2 caramelized apples wedges in a sundae glass. Top with a scoop of frozen yogurt, 2 caramelized apple wedges and some granola. Repeat frozen yogurt, apple and granola layers. Top with additional whipped cream and a sprinkle of cinnamon, if desired. ONTARIO APPLE GROWERS, ONAPPLES.COM/ THE CANADIAN PRESS/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS (PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR, AND TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE VISIT, EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA)

Ingredients

- 3 apples (McIntosh or Spy), peeled cored and each cut into 12 wedges
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) lemon juice
- 75 ml (1/3 cup) butter
- 500 ml (2 cups) granulate sugar
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) 35% whipping cream
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) vanilla
- 1.5 L (6 cups) vanilla frozen yogurt or vanilla ice cream
- 250 ml (1 cup) crunchy granola
- Ground cinnamon (optional)

Nation-to-nation navigation: Interviews across the pond

East to West. Keep cultural differences in mind during a job interview abroad

LIN ABDUL RAHMAN
Talentegg.ca

Canadian employers often value confidence in a potential hire. ISTOCK

Do you remember the AT&T commercial where a man insults his Chinese business associate when he mispronounces the associate's name?

The commercial highlights the importance of clarity and precision in communication, and it also underscores the cultural nuances that we encounter at our increasingly global workplaces. These situations may seem funny in retrospect, but if they're not handled properly they may have serious consequences not only for the employee but for the company as well.

And these cultural distinctions extend far beyond the spoken language. I've had work experience in several culturally distinct countries and I can safely say the attitudes employers expect to see in a candidate also vary greatly from one country to another.

In Malaysia — a country heavily influenced by its Eastern morals and values — modesty, respect and courtesy are some of the characteristics candidates are expected to possess and display. This is not to say that employers in Western countries do not appreciate such values — quite the contrary.

However, in Malaysian culture, reverence and respect for elders, and by extension those higher up in the social hierarchy, are expected virtues in any individual. These qualities are therefore crucial in dealing with clients and associates.

As a result, candidates are expected to demonstrate these values during the interview process at great lengths, and then some.

Along the same vein, candidates are also expected to acknowledge an organization's inherent hierarchy, be it a formal or informal one. Of course, it goes without saying that falling in line is expected in any company anywhere on the globe. As the saying goes, 'You have to go along in order to get along.'

However, in Malaysia, it's crucial that a candidate displays a certain readiness, or even an eagerness, to fit into the existing pecking order. It might seem superficial or perhaps somewhat trivial, but it's crucial nonetheless as it is seen as a manifestation of the candidate's respect toward his or her superiors.

From the job interviews I've had in Australia and Canada — not all of them successful, naturally — I've found that ambition, confidence and being proactive are highly regarded by employers. These qualities are often the determining factors for whether an interview is successful or not.

Here in Canada, candidates are expected to possess high self esteem and feel confident about 'selling' themselves to employers. This is perhaps the greatest distinction between the work cultures in Canada and Malaysia.Numerous other facets of a culture come into play in determining on whether or not a candidate has had a successful interview and it is impossible to list them all.

Suffice it to say that it is good to develop a feel for the subtleties that exist within any given culture in order to gage what an employer might expect to see in a candidate.

LIN ABDUL RAHMAN IS A JOURNALISM STUDENT WITH A MINOR IN HUMAN RIGHTS AT LAURIER BRANTFORD. SHE IS ORIGINALLY FROM MALAYSIA AND NOW CALLS CANADA HOME. TALENTEGG.CA IS CANADA'S LEADING JOB SITE AND ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADUATES.

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- **2007/2008.** 123,309
- **2008/2009.** 129,636
- **2009/2010.** 146,928

From abroad

Origins

Top 3 regions of origin of international students (2008):

- Asia: 52.7%
- Europe: 17.9%
- Africa: 11.8%

ALL DATA COURTESY OF STATISTICS CANADA

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"I'm not where I want to be. I want to be where I was before I was injured. There's a lot of work to do to get where we want to be from a health standpoint."

Peyton Manning on his surgically repaired neck after being introduced as the Broncos' new quarterback on Tuesday in Denver. The 35-year-old star signed a five-year, $96 million US contract and said he plans to retire in Denver. Broncos vice-president John Elway, who engineered the Manning deal, said he's exploring all his options for Tebow, the incredibly popular and polarizing quarterback who led the Broncos back to the playoffs last season for the first time since 2005.

"If Tim Tebow is here next year, I'm going to be the best teammate I can be to him."

Peyton Manning

Johnson gets his shot in Blue Jays' No. 2 spot

Kelly Johnson bats for the Blue Jays against the Pirates earlier this month in Dunedin, Fla. DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

MLB. Second baseman looking to facilitate offence early in Toronto's batting order

Kelly Johnson is moving his way back up to the top of the order.

The Toronto Blue Jays second baseman is slated to bat in the No. 2 spot when the 2012 regular season begins April 5 in Cleveland.

Although he has batted first or second for most of his major-league career, he says it doesn't matter to him where he hits.

"It ultimately comes down to how you're doing," the 30-year-old from Austin, Texas, said. "If you can be a consistent hitter and be the best hitter you can be and you're doing everything right, then I feel I fit in a number of spots."

Johnson batted sixth in 16 of his 32 starts for Toronto after he was acquired from the Arizona Diamondbacks last Aug. 23 in a trade for John McDonald and Aaron Hill. He was used as the No. 2 hitter twice.

Johnson said his mindset doesn't necessarily change when he bats second, but the situations are different compared to other places in the order.

"In the two-hole, or up in the lineup, you're going to have more of those opportunities," he said. "Where you've got, like, a runner at second, nobody out, or a bunt situation, or a hit-and-run situation, or nobody on and you need to start the inning, you need to start a rally."

Johnson's focus in Florida is doing the things that will enable him to drive the ball when he gets his pitch and to just be ready once the season starts.

Defence is also something Johnson has been working on at spring training, particularly in starting the double play.

He played shortstop and left field before becoming a second baseman and has developed a good, quick throw to first after taking the feed for the force at second.

"I'm not going to say it came natural," he said.

"I'm not going to tell anybody that I've got the best feet in baseball in the middle infield, because I haven't. But I have a good enough arm and I feel if I get enough on the ball I'll be able to turn my part of it." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Batting history

Aiming to regain form

Kelly Johnson has plenty to work on regardless of where he hits in the Blue Jays' order.

In 2010, he hit a career-high 26 homers and drove in 71 runs while batting .284 with a .370 on-base percentage.

He hit 21 homers with 58 RBIs in 2011 but his average dropped to .222 and his OBP to .304. With Toronto he batted .270 with three homers, nine RBIs, and a .364 OBP.

"I got really in a good groove and I had a good year," Johnson said of 2010. "The next year I probably thought a lot more about how I did it and tried to kind of duplicate it rather than just do the same thing.... I was thinking more where the ball was going to go." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Maple Leaf fans witness yet another loss

The Islanders celebrate David Ullstrom's goal in Toronto on Tuesday night. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Toronto Maple Leafs can't stop the bleeding.

Matt Moulson scored a power-play goal with just over six minutes to play Tuesday as the New York Islanders beat Toronto 5-2, handing the Leafs their eighth straight loss at Air Canada Centre.

P.A. Parenteau brought down a chorus of boos from the disgruntled locals by scoring an insurance marker on a breakaway less than two minutes later. Moulson scored his second of the night into an empty net.

It was another poor performance for a Leafs team that endured its worst loss of the season just 24 hours earlier — getting hammered 8-0 in Boston Monday night. Toronto managed just 27 shots combined in those games.

Tuesday's game

Islanders	Leafs
5	2

Josh Bailey and David Ullstrom also had goals for the Islanders (30-32-11). John Tavares added three assists and Parenteau picked up two.

Phil Kessel and Matthew Lombardi replied for Toronto (32-34-8), which fell to 4-15-2 since Feb. 7.

The Leafs looked completely out of gas at the end of a punishing stretch that saw them play seven times in 11 nights. They managed just nine shots on goal through 40 minutes — Toronto had seven in the first two periods during Monday's loss in Boston — but were still tied 2-2 before a dominant third period by the Islanders.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Devils forward Ryan Carter, right, fights with Rangers defenceman Stu Bickel on Monday. BILL KOSTROUN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rangers-Devils brawl a hit around the league

NHL. Players, coaches enjoy fight that kicked off game between rivals

Rugged Montreal Canadiens winger Ryan White watched the brawl off the opening faceoff between the New York Rangers and New Jersey Devils on television Monday night and called it "awesome."

"You don't see it very often. A lot of people don't really like it, but I bet the people at Madison Square Garden liked it. I liked it," White said. "I thought it was pretty cool. There were some big boys going at it, that's for sure."

The National Hockey League also apparently liked it, with the video of the donnybrook getting feature billing on the league's website and no fines or suspensions issued.

Even as both Hockey Canada and Hockey USA look at ways to reduce fighting, at least in minor and junior hockey, there was not a hint of disapproval of the mass brawl in New York among NHL players and coaches Tuesday.

Even a skill player liked the New York Islanders' John Tavares enjoyed the mayhem.

"I can understand from both those teams, playing against them a lot and being in the New York area and what those rivalries are like," he said. "You don't see that so much any more, a few fights right off the draw like that. It really brings the intensity and the passion into the game."

While spontaneous fights are likely to happen no matter what penalties are in place, the main focus of the anti-fighting lobby is staged fights, where players are sent onto the ice to start bouts or when coaches match up their tough guys for a faceoff. Even the NHL has discussed bans on staged fights, but it has never been put into the rulebook.

The melee in New York certainly qualified as staged.

To recap, when Rangers coach John Tortorella saw that Devils counterpart Peter DeBoer had his tough guys in his starting lineup, he sent out his scrappers as well. He even moved centre Brandon Dubinsky back to defence so Stu Bickel could be at the front of the action.

Three fights erupted off the opening faceoff with Bickel squaring off with Ryan Carter, Michael Rupp taking on Eric Boulton and Brandon Prust going toe-to-toe with Cam Janssen.

The Rangers won the game 4-2, clinched a playoff spot and evened the season series between the clubs at three wins apiece. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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5 DRIVE

Top Gear

One product for all

If you have rubber, vinyl and leather — and many vehicles do — you need three separate cleaners and conditioners, right? That used to be the case until Mothers VLR (Vinyl, Leather and Rubber) came along. The idea here is to quickly take care of the three types of surfaces with one product. How can one product take care of three completely different surfaces? The formula contains something called neatsoil (which comes from cows) for conditioning/softening/preserving, and lanolin (which comes from sheep) for water protection. Mothers claims VLR will safely remove tough stains and ground-in dirt while conditioning against drying, fading and cracking. This new product will sell for about $10 wherever Mothers products are sold (in most big-box auto-parts stores such as Canadian Tire) or you can find out more at mothers.com.

Ready for summer driving?

ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASE

Review. It carries half as many people as the convertible, yet costs a bit more – a fair price to pay for a little extra sporting flair

MALCOLM GUNN
Wheelbase Media

Break out the SPF 50 and the Ray-Ban sunglasses because the Mini Cooper Roadster just arrived.

The two-seat convertible — a first for the Mini brand and a companion to the recently launched Coupe — adds some visual spice to the Mini's broadening model lineup that already includes a four-passenger drop-top. Admittedly, it seems a bit odd that BMW-owned Mini would now have two not-so-distinct convertibles that are constructed off the same platform and share the same mechanical bits. Furthermore, the two-seat Roadster lists for only $300 less than the standard four-place convertible.

Ah, but there's a point that's being overlooked. The Roadster swaps out the rear bench that isn't particularly roomy in the first place for an actual trunk (another Mini first). We're not talking cavernous space here by any means (it has a bit less volume than the Coupe's trunk) but it's enough to store a few decent-sized travel bags or a set or two of golf clubs regardless of whether the top is up or down.

The Roadster's styling is far less controversial than that of the helmet-headed Coupe and it looks better with the roof up than the existing Mini convertible. Combined with a windshield that has been tilted back an additional 13 degrees, the Roadster is one of the best looking of the bunch.

The hair-drying Roadster deserves its sports-car appellation. And, with pricing that ranges from $30,500 to $41,500, consider it an alternative to the league-leading Mazda Miata and an extra-fun way to celebrate the summer season.

Mini Cooper Roadster

- **Type:** Two-door, front-wheel-drive two-seat convertible
- **Engines (hp):** 1.6-litre DOHC I4 (121); 1.6-litre DOHC I4, turbocharged (181-208)
- **Mileage:** L/100 km (city/hwy): 7.2/4.9 (base 1.6)
- **Base Price (incl. destination):** $25,000

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Wary of going it alone, automakers eye up dance partners

Autopilot

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

The messages from some of the automakers at last week's Geneva auto show were somewhat contradictory.

Come look at all this great stuff we're building — way better than that crap the other guys build. Hey other guys, wouldn't mind a bit of help over here…

Just before the show, General Motors and the Peugeot-Citroen group announced an alliance, which will see GM will take a seven per cent share of the French automaker.

The arrangement is not unlike several that have developed over the last decade or so, between other auto titans, who have no intention of merging or allowing one partner to eventually swallow the other.

These new arrangements are all about trying to save costs on huge, global engineering programs.

Basically they're saying, we'll share development costs, because they're crazy expensive, then afterwards, we'll put them in our respective brand offerings and compete against each other like heck.

May the better man win, when it comes to exploiting that technology we both worked on.

With their vast R&D budgets and resources, you'd think most automakers would be big enough on their own, but analysts cite that looming fuel efficiency and emission targets are scaring the pants off some players, especially ones that don't have everything yet lined up in their pipelines.

And no one wants to bet the farm on one emerging technology, be it electric, hybrid, diesel, hydrogen, CNG, etc.

Another incentive to build alliances is to make sure you're not shut out of emerging markets.

A mature market is much harder to penetrate and less profitable. That's one of the reasons Chrysler-Fiat wants its next development dance partner to come from Asia (Mazda? Suzuki?), where it doesn't yet have a big presence.

Another reason is that the European marketplace isn't looking so good for the foreseeable future. Best go somewhere else for growth.

Another enabler of this trend is Volkswagen. The German automaker has gone on record, and made the point again at this year's show in Geneva, that it will spend over $70 billion over the next five years, to become the world's biggest automaker in both sales and profitability by 2018.

Currently standing in its way are GM and Toyota. If you are going to step into a ring with a bulked-up VW, you might want to bulk up a little yourself.

Toyota and BMW recently decided to trade respective technologies (hybrid batteries, diesel engines).

The Nissan-Renault alliance is going strong, and also works with Mercedes-Benz on a couple of projects. Those are just of few of the inter-company initiatives out there. And more will surely come.

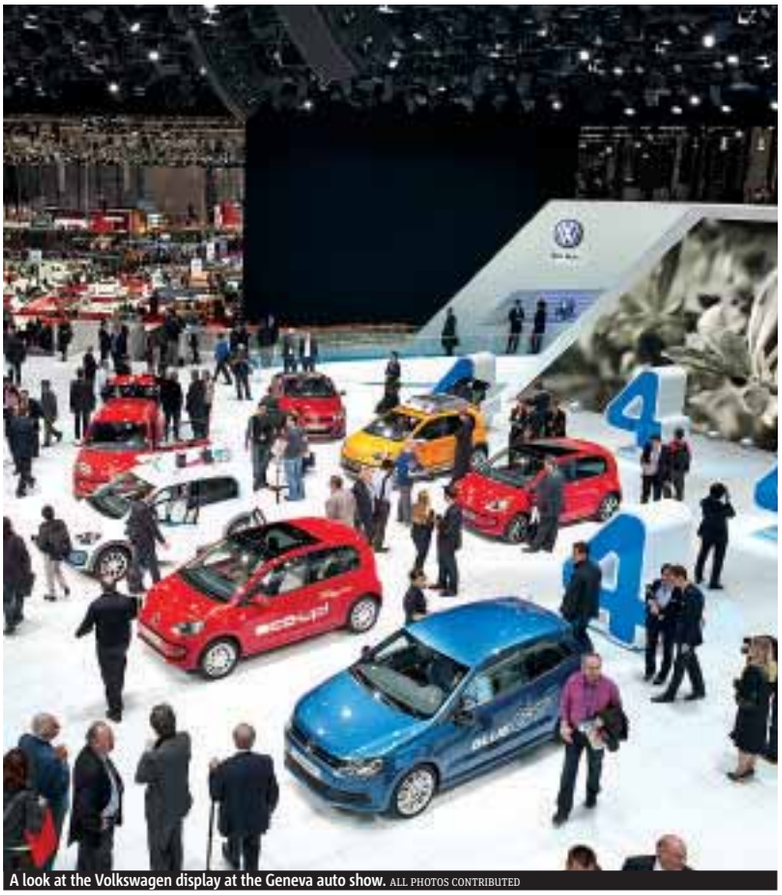
Will this make life harder on the small, quirkier manufacturers? Likely not. It hasn't yet.

The Geneva show was again full of specialty makes with weird ideas. You can't stop creative thought and drive, especially when someone, yet again, wants to build a car company in their vision. So it seems all good.

And it feels strangely hopeful too, and humane even, that some of the biggest companies in the world can figure out a way to work together, and at the same time, compete so fiercely in the marketplace.

It's heart warming … It's life affirming … It's … Hold on … Suddenly feeling verklempt … Please talk amongst yourselves.

A model poses with an Alfa Romeo.



A look at the Volkswagen display at the Geneva auto show. ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

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Fashion

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Fashion

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Both Locations

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4 DREAM Catchers Wolf Design $100 OBO (as 1 lot) (519)435-0953	George Foreman Grill Works GREAT! $30 519-641-6506	**Home bed Safety Hand Rail Fits between bed an mattress Asking $45.00 OBO Please Call (519) 453-3179**	Men's summer shirt, large, Different colors & design In mint condition, & 2.00 each 519-681-5587	**PROPANE BBQ TANK 8kg $15.00 519-474-0733**	Visio Dual Band Wireless Internet Router $40.00 (519)701-5911

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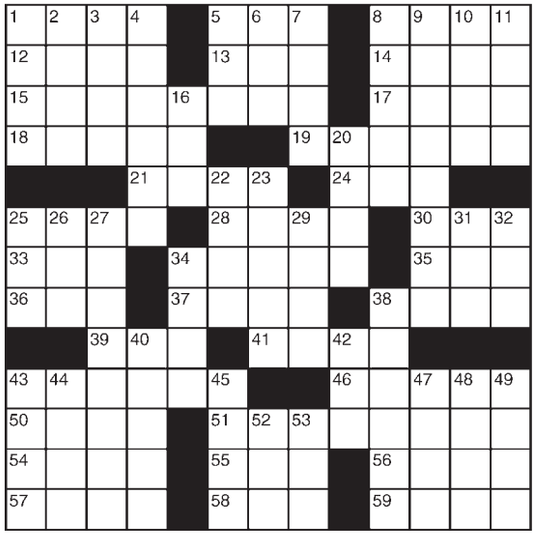
Crossword



Across

1 Segment
5 Science room
8 Arizona city
12 On the briny
13 Id counterpart
14 Terrible guy?
15 Approve
17 Cheerful tune
18 Wheel radius
19 "— With Wolves"
21 Chantilly, e.g.
24 Understand
25 Initial stake
28 Burn soother
30 Altar affirmative
33 Scoundrel
34 Work dough
35 "— Town"
36 Greek H
37 Pruritus
38 Elbow counterpart
39 Cornfield cry
41 Melody
43 Riga's land
46 Lightweight wood
50 Sills solo
51 Meeting place
54 Lowly worker
55 "All the Things You —"
56 Muscat's land
57 Huff and puff
58 Louis —
59 "Unh-unh"

Down

1 Go by
2 Memo acronym
3 Gambling mecca
4 Stop the ballcarrier
5 Souvenir from 29-Down
6 Past
7 007
8 Pooh's creator
9 Bad news from the landlord
10 Post-Christmas event
11 Picnic intruders
16 Afternoon social
20 On in years
22 Lacks the skills to
23 Vote into office
25 Expert
26 Enthusiast
27 Force exerted by pulling
29 Aloha Tower site
31 Payable
32 Tramcar load
34 Fuzzy fruit
38 Michael, Diane or Buster
40 — -garde
42 Leno's network
43 Reindeer herder, maybe
44 Vicinity
45 Trojan War hero
47 Prom-night transport
48 Bathday cake?
49 Hathaway or Heche
52 Spoon-bender Geller
53 3-Down's st.

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Monday's answer

J	A	C	K	■	A	P	R	■	G	R	E	W
A	L	O	E	■	R	O	E	■	I	O	T	A
B	E	N	E	F	I	T	S	■	G	O	U	T
■	■	■	P	E	A	■	P	R	O	F	I	T
S	H	R	E	W	■	C	O	O	L	■	■	■
T	O	U	R	■	B	E	N	D	O	V	E	R
A	N	I	■	S	E	N	S	E	■	O	R	E
B	E	N	Z	O	A	T	E	■	V	I	N	E
■	■	■	O	U	R	S	■	M	O	D	E	L
F	E	D	O	R	A	■	K	A	Y	■	■	■
O	V	U	M	■	B	E	N	J	A	M	I	N
P	I	K	E	■	L	E	E	■	G	A	T	E
S	L	E	D	■	E	K	E	■	E	R	S	T

Sudoku

	6		4		9			2
				2		1		7
				1		6	3	
	1						8	5
			8		7			
8	3						2	
	2	7		8				
9		1		4				
5			9		1		7	

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Monday's answer

2	6	4	5	3	9	1	8	7
7	5	1	6	8	2	4	3	9
9	8	3	7	4	1	5	2	6
1	7	9	3	6	8	2	4	5
5	3	6	2	7	4	9	1	8
4	2	8	1	9	5	7	6	3
6	1	2	8	5	7	3	9	4
3	9	5	4	2	6	8	7	1
8	4	7	9	1	3	6	5	2

Send a kiss

- **Love Birds.** Since you have come into my life I have been so happy. You have given me so much joy. Time spent with you is never boring, we laugh and carry on, we enjoy the same things, thank you for rescuing me. I hope to spend the rest of my days with you. From the blues man
- **AC.** put the two together and feel the electrical vibes racing through our veins. Feel the hope of what tomorrow will bring. Learn from yesterday's experiences. Once again, sending a good night kiss to the lover of my main dreams... heart aches by every beat...sit outside in the dark and enjoy the warm evening night after a thunder shower. FDC
- **MyPet.** Very difficult when in the scene where am reminded of you. Recieving hugs and kisses from you makes me miss you even more.I don't know how to handle it... From lost myself
- **Chad.** I wish i could let you know how much i like you, someday you will know. 2Shy2SayHi

Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April 20. Be careful what you ask for today because you won't be able to give it back if you change your mind.

Taurus | April 21 - May 21. You may find it hard to resist something that's bad for you today. But maybe it's OK to give in to your less disciplined side.

Gemini | May 22 - June 20. A friend will have a profound effect on your opinions and beliefs today, but don't go changing your entire outlook on life.

Cancer | June 21 - July 22. There is a danger you could make some illogical decisions over the next 24 hours. On the work front, especially, think carefully.

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. Not everyone sees the world through your eyes and you would do well to remember that fact today.

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. You may be worried about your money situation but that's OK because it will encourage you to search harder for a solution.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. A relationship is going through major changes at the moment. Don't make any hasty decisions. There's still time for you to decide.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. You need to face up to reality and admit that something is wrong. It won't be as painful as you fear.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. Changes in the wider world will lead to new opportunities for you personally. Be ready.

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. Someone you are close to will do something that takes you by surprise. Others think differently.

Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. Things won't happen the way you expect them to over the next 24 hours but if you refuse to worry, everything will come right.

Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. Life is not a zero sum game: There does not have to be a loser every time there is a winner.

SALLY BROMPTON

Caption Contest

"When it comes to doggie fashion, I think I'm it!" Rick

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ GRAHAM HUGHES

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Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in Wednesday's Metro.

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